

ON PAGE **2**

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**FILE ONLY**

# Buckley still alive: report

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**JERUSALEM** —

American hostage William Buckley is probably alive, despite a claim by the underground group Islamic Holy War that he was executed, according to reliable diplomatic sources here.

The fate of Buckley and five other American hostages depends on the Kuwait government, which is holding 17 Shiite extremists as



**WILLIAM BUCKLEY**  
*Execution denied.*

prisoners, the sources said.

Shiite authorities are demanding the release of the 17 — and once they are released, the Americans will be freed, diplomatic authorities told The Post.

American officials were unable to confirm the announcement last week that Buckley's had been executed.

The announcement said Buckley had been executed in retaliation for the Israeli air strikes against the PLO headquarters in Tunisia.

The statement also said that the U.S. supported the attack and that "American warships in the Mediterranean provided fuel and information to the Israelis about Tunisia."

Both the Americans and the Israelis denied American aid in the raid, and the Israelis said their jets refueled in mid-air.